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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
Wheeling Office
303 Methodist Bldg., 11th & Chapline Streets
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

SUBJECT: AVTEX - Bioassessment Work Group Review

DATE 6/1/87

FROM: H. Ronald Preston, Chairman
Superfund Bioassessment Work Group

TO: James Miller, Project Officer (3HW16)
AVTEX Superfund Site

The Bioassessment Work Group reviewed the AVTEX (Virginia) site environmental contamination problem and the following comments and recommendations are provided.

Ecological Needs - The discharge and groundwater contamination has a potential impact on the warmwater fishery resources of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. The VA Water Control Board has demonstrated an impact from the site on the stream biota through a benthic survey. It has been reported that screening toxicity tests performed by the EPA Duluth Laboratory indicate an active toxic problem from the site discharge. Discharge/water quality evaluation indicates that zinc water quality criteria may be exceeded.

Data Needs - In addition to toxics in the active discharge, there is considerable evidence that groundwater sources are contaminated. Toxics identification and pathways (groundwater, underground leakage, etc.) need to be better defined and characterized.

Recommendations -

- ° Chronic toxicity tests should be required on the permitted discharges.
- ° A comprehensive investigation of all possible sources - deep and shallow aquifers as well as the point source for zinc concentrations to the river and to the groundwater.
- ° Benthic biology evaluations have recently been performed by the VA State Water Control Board and document stream impacts on the facility and therefore, additional biota surveys are not recommended.

cc: Dale Wismer
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Bioassessment Work Group

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